

By JACK STEGGLES: Wycombe 2, Bedford 1

WYCOMBE finally broke five hours of deadlock in last night's FA Cup first round, second replay.

A rating officer and a schoolteacher were the heroes of a rain-lashed night—firing the goals that enabled the Isthmian league club to splash to a thoroughly deserved away tie with Cardiff.

The rates man, Dave Bullock, who works for the local council, for once earned the gratitude of the locals by netting Wycombe's first goal in the 68th minute.

Teacher Dylan Evans popped up with

the second five minutes later to make sure of a trip back to his native Wales. Wycombe—well on top for most of the game—had to endure a hectic late spell when Leo Markham rapped an 82nd minute goal for Bedford to start a late onslaught by the Southern League side.

Treacherous

Anything could have happened on a pitch made treacherous by non-stop rain, and the players emerged with credit for providing some great entertainment in appalling conditions.

"The skill factor counted for nothing and it became a game of chance," said Wycombe's relieved manager Brian Lee.

"I was terrified that referee Clive White was going to call it off at any moment.

"Fortunately he used a lot of commonsense to keep things flowing well."

White told me afterwards that he had never even considered calling a halt to an encounter that provided thrilling entertainment for the 2,765 fans.

Wycombe go through to face Cardiff

Wycombe W. 2
Bedford T. 1

DAVE BULLOCK'S first goal of the season sent Wycombe Wanderers on the way to a third round FA Cup tie at Cardiff.

Bullock's goal, a well-placed header in the 67th minute, broke the deadlock in last night's first round second replay.

Eight minutes later Wycombe increased their lead through Dylan Evans.

And despite a Leo Markham goal Southern Leaguers Bedford were unable to pull level.

By Malcolm Folley

Wycombe 2 Bedford 1

DAVE BULLOCK last night earned more goodwill for High Wycombe's rates department than a public relations campaign could reap in a year.

For Bullock, who works in the local rates office, was largely responsible for keeping Wycombe's F.A. Cup show on the road, on a night when the rain drenched Loakes Park.

His 67th minute goal unlocked Bedford's heavily-reinforced defence and guaranteed Wycombe a profitable visit to Cardiff in the second round.

The only mystery last night was that this Cup tie should have reached a second replay.

Wycombe were far superior to Southern League Bedford, and even managed to produce spasms of fluent football on a surface as treacherous as any Arctic ice-field.

Wycombe manager Brian Lee smiled afterwards: "It became a game of chance. I was terrified that the referee would call it off any minute."

No danger

Certainly the driving rain kept the crowd down to 2,765 on a night when Wycombe—the little club who banked £12,000 from last year's Cup combat with Middlesbrough—expected more than 5,000.

But Harrow referee Clive White revealed: "The game was never in any danger. The only worry I had concerned one goalmouth. There was so much sand in it I thought we might have to get the deck-chairs out!"

Somehow, Bedford clung on defiantly for 67 minutes until Bullock headed Wycombe ahead.

Schoolmaster Dylan Evans punished the weak back-pass by Norman Cooley to stroke home goal number two before Bedford's Leo Markham scored too late to prolong a contest which had already lasted five hours.

By ALASDAIR ROSS
Wycombe W 2, Bedford 1

STYLISH Wycombe skillfully brushed aside Bedford's determined FA Cup challenge to clinch this rain-drenched first round, second replay.

But they left it late as second half goals from Dave Bullock and Dylan Evans wrapped up the chance of a second round tie at Cardiff.

First defender Bullock moved up to head a vital first goal of the season in the 67th minute.

That Bullock goal gave Wycombe the boost they needed as Bedford were beginning to dominate.

Clear

Six minutes later Evans latched on to a mistimed Cooley back pass, rounded Peacock and slipped the ball into the empty net.

Only seconds later Evans wasted another fine chance as he was sent racing clear.

Leo Markham pulled back a goal in the 81st minute as he picked up a loose ball following a Maskell error.

The scoreline flattered Bedford. Earlier they had been sent reeling as Wycombe turned on a slick first half display—only to squander a series of chances.